

In the Claims

Please substitute the following amended claims for those currently pending:

1. (Currently Amended) An interpositional arthroplasty ~~system~~ implant for use in repairing ginglymus joints such as the joints of the ankle, comprising a single piece tibiotalar implant that provides a first major surface adapted to be positioned against a tibia, the tibia being allowed to articulate across the first major surface, and a second major surface adapted to be positioned against a talus.

2. (Original) An implant according to claim 1 wherein the tibiotalar implant further comprises one or more external structures adapted to improve retention of the implant within the joint site.

3. (Currently Amended) An implant according to claim 2 wherein the structure comprises an integral bead shaped structure proximate the implant's ~~its~~ anterior side adapted to ~~engage and thereby~~ engage the a neck of the talus.

4. (Original) An implant according to claim 1 wherein the implant comprises a biomaterial.

5. (Original) An implant according to claim 4 wherein the biomaterial is a polyurethane.

6. (Original) An implant according to claim 5 wherein the polyurethane is biocompatible with respect to cytotoxicity, sensitization, genotoxicity, chronic toxicity, and carcinogenicity.

7. (Original) An implant according to claim 5 wherein polyurethane has a Shore hardness of at least about 60 D or less.

8-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of repairing a ~~ginglymus~~ tibiotalar joint, comprising the steps of providing and implanting an implant according to claim 1, the implant being inserted

through an incision anterior to the tibiotalar joint.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A ginglymus joint that includes an~~ An implant according to claim 1 ~~inserted into a ginglymus joint, the ginglymus joint being a tibiotalar joint, the single piece implant's first major surface positioned against the tibia, its second major surface positioned against the talus, and an integral bead shaped structure proximate the implant's anterior side engaging a neck of the talus.~~

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A device for implantation into an ankle joint space within the body of a mammal, the device comprising a ~~single piece composite or monolith~~ structure fabricated from a biocompatible, biodurable material that is adapted to be inserted into the joint compartment, ~~the device including an interpositional tibiotalar implant that provides the single piece structure including~~ a first major surface adapted to be positioned against a tibia, the tibia being allowed to articulate across the first major surface, and a second major surface adapted to be positioned against a talus, wherein the implanted device is substantially free of anchoring portions that need to be attached to the bone, cartilage, ligaments or other tissue, yet by its design is capable of being used with minimal translation, rotation, or other undesired movement or dislocation within or from the joint space.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 22 wherein stability of the device within the joint space is provided by the ~~fixation/~~congruency of the device to the talus.

25. (Currently Amended) An interpositional arthroplasty ~~device system~~ for use in repairing joints of the ankle, comprising a single piece interpositional tibiotalar implant that provides a first major surface adapted to be positioned against a tibia, the tibia being allowed to

articulate across the first major surface, and a second major surface adapted to be positioned against a talus, wherein the implant comprises an integral bead shaped structure proximate its anterior side adapted to ~~cap and thereby~~ engage the neck of ~~the~~ a talus to improve fixation to the talus.